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OCT 28 2004

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**OCT 28 2004****Docket No. CINF-3258****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Jeffrey A. Whitehead

Group Art Unit: 2621

Filed: 10/26/2001

Examiner: Alavi, Amir

Serial No.: 10/040,228

**Title: DIGITAL IMAGE TRANSMISSION WITH COMPRESSION AND  
DECOMPRESSION**Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESTRICTION ELECTION**

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 18, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-16, 18-33, and 35-50, drawn to image compression or coding, classified in class 382, subclass 232. This election is made with traverse, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 17, 34 and 51-52, drawn to image segmentation.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-52 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden,

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the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicants prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicants request early and favorable examination on the merits.

Date: 10/28/2004

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